

REMARKS

Claims 3, 9 and 53-62 are all the claims pending in the application as claims 2, 8, 15, 16, 18-20, 49, 50 and 52 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

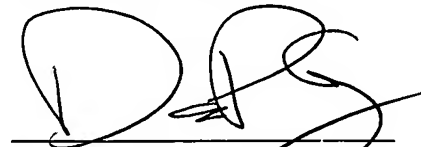
Claims 2, 8, 15, 16, 18-20, 49, 50 and 52 are rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by TORII et al. (US 6,380,574). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of the rejected claims by this amendment.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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